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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the Application of)	
Barone et al.)	Examiner: C.T. Blake
Title: RAZOR CARTRIDGE WITH A)	
SHAVNG AID AND A METHOD OF)	Group Art Unit: 3724
MANUFACTURING A RAZOR)	
CARTRIDGE)	
Serial No.: 10/618,886)	
Filed On: July 14, 2003)	(Docket No.: 6579-0035-1)

Middletown, Connecticut, January 4, 2005

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. BOX 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

This paper is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed December 6, 2004, having a period for response set to expire on January 6, 2005. In the Office Action, the Examiner has required the election of a single group of claims for prosecution in this application. Applicants hereby elect, with traverse, Group I (claims 1-19) for prosecution.

The Examiner alleges that the inventions of Group I (claims 1-19) and Group II (claims 20 and 21) are distinct, each from the other, because the inventions of Group I and Group II are related as a process of making and a product made. More specifically, the Examiner alleges that the process as claimed (claims 1-19) can be used to make other and materially different products because the process as claimed can allegedly be used to make a

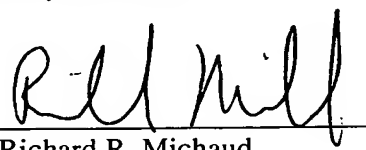
razor cartridge having a shaving aid material disposed only in the first channel and the product does not require shaving aid material to be disposed in the second or lateral channels.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's reasons for the restriction requirement and, as stated above, traverse the requirement for the reasons set forth hereinafter. In the claims directed to the method (claims 1-19), the channels into which shaving aid materials are injected are interconnected by passages that enable the injected shaving aid materials to travel between the channels. Short of providing some barrier in the passages themselves, which would then prevent travel of the injected shaving aid materials, Applicants fail to appreciate how the process can be used to make a product in which shaving aid material is present only in the first channel. Given the rheological nature of the shaving aid material, it seems that the material would flow throughout the channel/passage structure of the razor cartridges and razor assemblies. Thus, Applicants fail to appreciate the Examiner's reasoning for how the claimed process can be used to make a razor cartridge having shaving aid material disposed only in the first channel and not in the second or lateral channels. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the restriction requirement.

Applicants believe that the foregoing election fully complies with the Office Action and that all claims of the application are allowable. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Response. If, however, it is deemed that any fees are in fact due, they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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